

**CITY COUNCIL MEETING
PUBLIC SPEAKING FORUM
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022
City Council Chambers, City Hall
45 Lyon Terrace
Bridgeport, CT**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nieves called the Public Speaking session of the City Council to order at 6:32 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Assistant City Clerk Frances Ortiz called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Avelino Silva, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira, Michele Small
139th District: *Wanda Simmons*, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. The names in italics did not appear to respond during the roll call. Council Member Newton stated that Council Member Simmons was ill.

THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022 at 6:30 P.M.

Briana Wahl
Green Village Initiative
20 Amsterdam Avenue, 3E
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Supporting youth programming
and food justice

Ms. Wahl came forward to speak about food justice and youth programming. She said that in Bridgeport there were some businesses that were teaching children how to prepare high quality and health meals. It will be important to support those types of businesses.

Nicholas Flood
Green Village Initiative
20 Amsterdam Avenue, 3E
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Supporting a new lease for Green
Village Initiative at 1469 Reservoir
Avenue.

Mr. Flood greeted the Council and asked the Council to work in partnership with the GVI. As it stands, the agreement does not seem favorable to food justice and social justice. It encourages people to open their own businesses. Bridgeport Farm offers a unique opportunity. It will be important to invest in children's futures. Funding school libraries will help the children and the farm can remain.

Andres Garcia
El Pueblo Unido
219 James Street
Bridgeport, CT 06604

1469 Reservoir Avenue

Council President Nieves called for Mr. Garcia. There was no response.

Katie Smuckler
FoodCores/Reservoir
Community Farm
1469 Reservoir Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Reservoir Community Farm lease
ending/future plans.

Ms. Smuckler greeted the Council and encouraged the Council to support the Farm. She is a teacher. GVI has been in Bridgeport since 2010 and teach not only students, but teachers. The Farm is a source of fresh food and the students learn where the food comes from. The students return to their classrooms with many questions such as what they can grow and how they can do it. It is a safe space for the children in terms of social/emotional learning. The schools are losing resources. This will help the children.

Allison Waggener
Bridgeport Mutual Aid
72 Park Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Renewing lease for Reservoir
Community Farm

Ms. Waggener came forward and greeted he Council Members. She said that she was speaking in support of the renewal of the Community farm. Bpt. Mutual Aid has delivered over 13,000 meals in the past. This farm is a gem in the City. It doesn't make sense to have a lease that has a clause informing them that they will have 1 year to vacate when the library construction start. The Bridgeport Green Space Coalition has formed in the past week. She displayed some posters that had messages from the residents who came out to show their love for the farm. People care about this.

Takina Pollock Shafer
Bridgeport Farmers
Market Collaborative
49 Sidney Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Support for Reservoir Community
Farm

Ms. Shafer said that she was the director of the Bridgeport Farmers Market Collaborative. GVI is one of the partners. They work with WIC and SNAP card holders. Grocery prices. Are skyrocketing and the community should not have to choose between a library or a community farm. It provides bio-diversity in the City.

Deborah Thomas Sims
East End NRZ
Market and Café
302 Union Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Reservoir Farms

Council President Nieves called for Ms. Sims. There was no response.

Cecil Young
99 Carroll Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06607

Follow up on Violation of Civil Rights.

Mr. Cecil Young came forward and said that he had been a community activist for many years. He said that he did not care what color people were. He then displayed some poster boards with photos and documents regarding his termination from City job despite the fact he did go to work on March 15th. He said that he also had a time card showing that he was at work that day. After 27 1/2 years, he was terminated. His wife fought night and day to see Mr. Young get his day in Court. He thanked Council Member Cruz and said JC knew about all that he had done for the community. All the documents have been given to the Council Members. He promised his wife on her death bed that he would not let this issue go.

Eleanor Angerame
Green Village Initiative
497 Laurel Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Council Vote for GVI lease and use of
1469 Reservoir Avenue (Reservoir
Community Farm)

Ms. Angerame came forward and greeted the Council Members. She said that she was on a mission to create Fresh food for the community. She thanked each council Member who spoke in favor of the farm. She appreciates the support. There have been some developments in the lease negotiations. She said that she would work with the Council Members to address concerns.

As a farmer, she would like to see this new beginning to continue. They should all work together for Bridgeport.

Reginald Saint Fortcolin
190 Alice Street
Bridgeport, CT 06606

Reservoir Community Farm

Council President Nieves called for Ms. Sims. There was no response.

John Marshall Lee
30 Beacon Street
Bridgeport, CT 06605

Mr. Lee said that it was wonderful to be back in the Council Chambers. He then read the following statement into the record:

This past weekend the Stratfield Apartments was the scene of an attempted desperate leap by a resident from her third-floor apartment window to the street below. Two persons helped her abandon her threatened jump. One is a tenant who had been called by the desperate resident to say a last goodbye and also a maintenance worker for the apartments who received a similar message.

The eight/nine story building has 192 units according to its website and houses a population of seniors or disabled who meet low-income requirements of HUD. HUD Section Eight subsidies flow through the corporation managing the property and attain to the building itself. Bridgeport operates housing with Section Eight vouchers of several types and manages them through Park City Communities whose Executive Director is Jillian Baldwin.

Where would a resident of Stratfield Apartments look to record despair at not having someone listen to their pleas? A reference to Bridgeport Boards or Commissions like Fair Housing or Fair Rent created years ago? No. They actually have died in plain sight with expired terms that go without Mayor action. Did you know that? What are HUD rules for any resident associations to be elected, empowered, and supported in their primary mission of using their voice democratically and their eyes and ears to perform timely and regular oversight?

Elected officials of Federal, State and local levels including the Greater Bridgeport NAACP have been listening to Stratfield residents report and protest elevator safety issues including entrapment; of security and safety issues for tenants threatened or actually roughed up by non-tenant outsiders witnessed by landlord administrative employees too busy to intervene and reported to Police; and management determined to avoid doing remedial work to limit water leaking into units year after year, ruining clothing, bedding, carpeting, and way of life. Is it so much easier to scrape wallboard, spackle, and paint over without examining what is at fault with the structure and perform basic structural remedial work? Why? Too expensive?

Council Members Cruz and Mack should be acknowledged as genuinely committed to correcting the number of issues brought to their attention, and now yours as well. Where do your constituent renters turn with their issues today? Will they be told to sign the paperwork and read it later? Will they be threatened with eviction if they raise issues publicly? HUD uses our tax dollars to create support for fellow citizens who meet requirements and are good tenants. What if a landlord is failing in his responsibility as HUD calls for and is still keeping the subsidies? Where are the oversight reports for residents of Bridgeport to see that quality results are routinely delivered and not subject to broad current criticism by physicians, mental health professionals, and others who care for residents who are poor and disabled? Time will tell.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nieves closed the Public Speaking portion of the Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT
CITY COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022**

7:00 PM

City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace

Bridgeport, Connecticut

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Ganim called the Regular Meeting of the City Council to order at 7:01 p.m.

PRAYER

Mayor Ganim asked Council Member Newton to lead those present in prayer.

Council Member Newton prayed for Council Member Simmons' quick recovery from illness.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Ganim asked City Clerk Martinez to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The City Clerk Lydia Martinez called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman-Christy
136th District: Avelino Silva, Alfredo Castillo
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira, Michele Small
139th District: *Wanda Simmons*, Ernest Newton

A quorum was present. The names in italics did not appear to respond during the roll call.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she had been on the Council for many years and felt disrespected during the last election. Mayor Ganim said that if he allowed Council Member McBride-Lee to speak, he would have to let others speak.

She said that she and Rosalina Roman-Christy had worked very hard with Bill Coleman on the GVI lease. She did not know where people got the idea that they was against GVI.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

• February 7, 2022

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under Public Speaking Roll Call, please change the following from:

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem G. Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, *AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia*
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman Christy
136th District: *Avelino Silva, Alfredo Castillo*
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira, *Michele Small*
139th District: Wanda Simmons, Ernest Newton

To:

The City Clerk called the roll.

130th District: Scott Burns, Matthew McCarthy
131st District: Jorge Cruz, Tyler Mack
132nd District: Marcus Brown, Rolanda Smith
133rd District: Aikeem G. Boyd, Jeanette Herron
134th District: Michelle Lyons, *AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia*
135th District: Mary McBride-Lee, Rosalina Roman Christy
136th District: *Avelino Silva, Alfredo Castillo*
137th District: Aidee Nieves, Maria Valle
138th District: Maria Pereira, Michele Small
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On page 5, please remove the following edits for the December 20, 2021 meeting:

Council Member Pereira submitted the corrections for the December 20, 2021 minutes as follows:

1) Public Comment- Page 4- Last Paragraph: *"Council Member Pereira said that she would be meeting with Nate because there is a need for litigation [inaudible]"* I have no idea who "Nate" is and made no such reference regarding speaking with a "Nate" about "litigation." This needs to be eliminated.

2) **Regular Meeting - Page 9 - First paragraph:** Should read I stated *"Everything about Steel Pointe reeks of gentrification. Bass Pro was being sued by the Federal Department of Labor for racist hiring practices when the developers and Mayor Finch decided it was a great idea to bring them to Bridgeport when our community was 78% minority." Boca and Starbucks aren't here for existing Bridgeport residents, they are here to cater to wealthy, white outsiders. I have never had anyone ask me to stop by Starbucks to grab a cup of coffee as the vast majority of residents are Dunkin Donuts coffee drinkers."*

3) **Page-9- Third Paragraph:** It should read as *"When the 400 units are rented, their tenants will be utilizing our public services to include our streets, snow removal, libraries, parks, fire & police and possibly our schools, yet the vast majority of taxes will go right back to the Steel Pointe Special Services District, not the city coffers to offset the costs associated with their use of those public services."*

4) **Pages 11-12- Last Paragraph to First Paragraph:** Approval of October 4, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes

The minutes show that only Amy Vizzo-Paniccia abstained due to her illness. It shows that Tyler Mack, Aikeem Boyd, Michele Small and Wanda Simmons all voted in favor of the October 4, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes although all four have previously abstained from voting on the previous regular meeting minutes because they were not members of the Council until December 1, 2021. In consultation with Michele Small she is confident that she abstained. Councilmembers Mack, Boyd and Simmons will have to advocate for their position on this specific vote as cannot specifically recall how they voted on this matter. It just didn't make sense when I reviewed the minutes.

5) **Page 13- Paragraphs 3-8:** The motion is the approval of the Nurses Contract, however all 6 paragraphs referenced are our discussion on the Crossing Guard Contract. This needs to be corrected.

6) **Page 13 - Paragraph Three:** also asserts I stated " These are the lowest union members in the City and this is the worse(sic) contract she has seen in 12 years. It is not codified that they are not pedophiles, or sex offenders." *It should read "These are the lowest **compensated** union members in the City and this is the **worst** contract she has seen **in her 12 years of public service. The contract does not codify that national background checks must be conducted to ensure pedophiles, sex offenders, etc.; are not hired as crossing guards."***

7) **Page 14 -15 - Paragraphs 4-9 on Page 14 & Paragraphs 1-4 on Page 15:** The motion is the approval of the Crossing Guard Contract, however all 10 paragraphs are our discussion on the Nurses Contract. This needs to be corrected.

8) **Page 16 - Paragraph 2:** The minutes state "This is an opportunity to allow the people of the 132nd District to vote on a vacant seat. It is not an unfilled seat. In order to vacate something, one must first occupy it." My position was the complete opposite. It should read *"This is an opportunity to allow the people of the 132nd District to vote on this unfilled seat. It is not a vacant seat as in order to vacate a seat one must first occupy the seat."*

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2022 AS CORRECTED.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER ROMAN-CHRISTY SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 7, 2022 AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:

34-21 Communication from Tax Collector re: Proposed Assignment of Tax Liens for Fiscal Year 2022, referred to Contracts Committee.

35-21 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Administration of Shared Mobility Device Program, referred to Ordinance Committee.

36-21 Communication from OPED re: Proposed Amendments to the Municipal Code of Ordinance, Chapter 12.16 – Street and Sidewalk Use Regulations, amend Section 12.16.245 – Permit to Use City Streets and Sidewalks for Shared Mobility Program and 12.16.250 – Miscellaneous Acts Prohibited, refer to Ordinance Committee.

37-21 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Tobias Watson (D) to the Ethics Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

38-21 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Martha R. Dixon (R) to the Harbor Commission, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

39-21 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Mary F. Gaits (R) to the Zoning Board of Appeals, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

40-21 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of John R. Slater (R) to the Zoning Board of Appeals, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

41-21 Communication from Mayor re: Appointment of Donald W. Donaldson (D) to the Commission for People with Disabilities, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.

42-21 Communication from OPED re: Proposal Resolution Authorized Certain Amendments to the Hollow NRZ Plan, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.

- 43-21 Communication from OPED Re: Proposed Resolution Authorizing Certain Amendments to the South End NRZ Plan, referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**
- 44-21 Communication from Mayor re: Proposed Five – Year Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2023–2027, referred to Budget And Appropriations Committee.**
- 45-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of Claim # 836987 in the matter of Lexi Black, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**
- 46-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Settlement of pending litigation with Ryan Collins v. Bouchard, Et al – Case #3:19 – cv – 01646 (JAM), referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**
- 47-21 Communication from City Attorney re: Proposed Request for an Additional Paralegal Position to the Office of the City Attorney, referred to Miscellaneous Matters Committee.**
- 48-21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: State of Connecticut Department of Public Health – Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Supplement (ELC) Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement (# 22474), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**
- 49–21 Communication from Central Grants re: Grant Submission: CT Urban Forest Council – Urban Forestry Climate Change Grant Program (# 22396), referred to Economic and Community Development and Environment Committee.**
- 50-21 Communication from OPM re: Proposed Budget Transfer to FY 2021-2022 From: Emergency Communications and Operations Center Account #01290000-56180 (\$209,252) To: Health & Social Service Department Accounts (\$209,252), referred to Budget and Appropriations Committee.**

Council Member Burns requested Agenda Item 47-21 should be amended to be referred to Budget and Appropriations rather than Miscellaneous Matters.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES AS CORRECTED:**

34-21 COMMUNICATION FROM TAX COLLECTOR RE: PROPOSED ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2022, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.

35-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ADMINISTRATION OF SHARED MOBILITY DEVICE PROGRAM, REFERRED TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

36-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCE, CHAPTER 12.16 – STREET AND SIDEWALK USE REGULATIONS, AMEND SECTION 12.16.245 – PERMIT TO USE CITY STREETS AND SIDEWALKS FOR SHARED MOBILITY PROGRAM AND 12.16.250 – MISCELLANEOUS ACTS PROHIBITED, REFER TO ORDINANCE COMMITTEE.

37-21 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF TOBIAS WATSON (D) TO THE ETHICS COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

38-21 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARTHA R. DIXON (R) TO THE HARBOR COMMISSION, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

39-21 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF MARY F. GAITS (R) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

40-21 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF JOHN R. SLATER (R) TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

41-21 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF DONALD W. DONALDSON (D) TO THE COMMISSION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

42-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSAL RESOLUTION AUTHORIZED CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE HOLLOW NRZ PLAN, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

43-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPED RE: PROPOSED RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CERTAIN AMENDMENTS TO THE SOUTH END NRZ PLAN, REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

44-21 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: PROPOSED FIVE – YEAR CAPITAL PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023–2027, REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

45-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF CLAIM # 836987 IN THE MATTER OF LEXI BLACK, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

46-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH RYAN COLLINS V. BOUCHARD, ET AL – CASE #3:19 – CV – 01646 (JAM), REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.

47-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ATTORNEY RE: PROPOSED REQUEST FOR AN ADDITIONAL PARALEGAL POSITION TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY, REFERRED TO ~~MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE~~ BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS.

48-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH – EPIDEMIOLOGY AND LABORATORY CAPACITY SUPPLEMENT (ELC) ENHANCING DETECTION COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (# 22474), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

49-21 COMMUNICATION FROM CENTRAL GRANTS RE: GRANT SUBMISSION: CT URBAN FOREST COUNCIL – URBAN FORESTRY CLIMATE CHANGE GRANT PROGRAM (# 22396), REFERRED TO ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

50-21 COMMUNICATION FROM OPM RE: PROPOSED BUDGET TRANSFER TO FY 2021-2022 FROM: EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AND OPERATIONS CENTER ACCOUNT #01290000-56180 (\$209,252) TO: HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS (\$209,252), REFERRED TO BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):

25-21 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.12 – Stopping, Standing and Parking Generally, amend Section 10.12.080 – Illegal Parking in a Bus Zone.

26-21 Proposed Amendment to the Municipal Code of Ordinances, Chapter 10.16 – Parking, amend Section 10.16.070 – Rates and Charges; Grace Period; Prompt Payment Discount; Immobilization; Exemptions.

21-21 Appointment of Ralph R. Ford, Jr. (D) to the Civil Service Commission.

27-21 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with William Gomez-Perez, et al Docket No. FBT-CV-19-6082893-S.

29-21 Refund of Excess Payments – Montrey LLC re: 1245 Fairfield Avenue.

30-21 Refund of Excess Payments – Greystone Servicing Co. LLC re: 215 Barnum Avenue.

Mayor Ganim asked if there was any one who wished to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. Council Member Pereira requested that Agenda Items 21-21 and 27-21 be removed from the Consent Calendar.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

25-21 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.12 – STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING GENERALLY, AMEND SECTION 10.12.080 – ILLEGAL PARKING IN A BUS ZONE.

26-21 PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 10.16 – PARKING, AMEND SECTION 10.16.070 – RATES AND CHARGES; GRACE PERIOD; PROMPT PAYMENT DISCOUNT; IMMOBILIZATION; EXEMPTIONS.

29-21 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – MONTREY LLC RE: 1245 FAIRFIELD AVENUE.

30-21 REFUND OF EXCESS PAYMENTS – GREYSTONE SERVICING CO. LLC RE: 215 BARNUM AVENUE.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

21-21 Appointment of Ralph R. Ford, Jr. (D) to the Civil Service Commission.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA MOVED AGENDA ITEM 21-21 APPOINTMENT OF RALPH R. FORD, JR. (D) TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION.**

**** COUNCIL MEMBER HERRON SECONDED.**

Council Member Pereira then made the following statement:

I am requesting a roll call vote on this matter

Mayor Jasper McLevy established the Civil Service Commission to address the abuses of previous mayors who flooded the city payroll by giving their relatives, friends, and supporters jobs regardless of their qualifications or lack thereof. The point of civil service is to allow every person to have a fair opportunity to apply for city positions, and receive employment based on their qualifications and skills with the cream of the crop rising to the top. It is supposed to be all about what you know, not who you know.

This nominee serves as the antithesis of what Civil Service stands for and has long lobbied administrations to provide patronage employment for those individuals within his sphere regardless of their qualifications.

The Civil Service Commission failed to execute the most basic oversight during the previous National Police Chief search which resulted in the debacle where both Chief Perez and Acting Civil Service Director David Dunn were sentenced to prison.

And as we embark on the critical search for a highly qualified Chief of Police; the last thing the residents of Bridgeport need is to confirm a nominee who was earning \$120,000 working as a state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Clinical Director before being terminated in June 2014 for utilizing state resources over a four-year period, including utilizing state employees, to benefit his private practice while being paid by the state.

He paid a \$15,000 penalty for violating the state code of ethics prohibiting a state employee from using state resources to obtain personal gain and accepting outside employment that would impair his independence or judgement as a state employee. The State CT Office of Ethics issued a press release stating "...The pervasive nature of this activity makes it particularly egregious ..."

In 2016, this nominee flagrantly disregarded the CT state Democratic Party Rules which required him as the Chair of the 23rd District Senatorial Convention to provide consent forms to both Dennis Bradley, his candidate of choice, and Senator Ed Gomes who had both qualified at the convention to access the ballot without petitioning. The consent form was required to be signed by this nominee, the convention secretary, and each democratic candidate in order to be filed with the secretary of state, however this nominee failed to provide incumbent Senator Ed Gomes with the consent form although he had received 15% of the delegate votes while ensuring his candidate of choice, Dennis Bradley, was provided a completed consent form.

Senator Ed Gomes was forced to go to Superior Court to obtain ballot access. Judge Bellis stated in her decision that this nominee "perpetuated a fraud on the court," that state party officials forwarded him the consent form which he had a duty to present to Gomes, and that he demonstrated "willful misconduct" in not presenting the consent form to Senator Ed Gomes in order to prevent him access to the ballot.

Civil Service Commission members must demonstrate the highest levels of integrity, morality, and values as they have the ability to discipline and terminate civil service employees based on their conduct and performance.

For these reasons, I will be voting no on this nominee.

Respectfully submitted,
Councilwoman Maria Pereira

Council Member Newton said that everyone has made mistakes. He has known Dr. Ford for over 40 year. The first time Dr. Ford was serving on the Commission, Dr. Ford left because he did not agree with what was being done.

Council Member Newton wished that everyone was as perfect as some of the Council Members. This is slander. When people are asked to serve on Boards and Commission, they don't want to because of the kind of thing that was done today. The City supposedly believes in second chances. This sends a message to the Bridgeport residents, but they should be letting people know that the City wants them to serve on the Boards and Commissions. People don't want to serve because they don't want to hear about things that happened 20 years ago.

Council Member McBride-Lee said that she supports Dr. Ford for many reasons, She said that she has been in a church for more than 50 years and she is not a perfect person. Sin is sin, no matter what shape it is in. Dr. Ford is a gentleman and she is not concerned about what he did 20 years ago.

Council Member Cruz referenced the Bible story referred to in the Gospel of John, Chapter 8 when the Pharisees brought a woman before Jesus for her sins and Jesus said that the man without sin should throw the first stone. Council Member Cruz said that he had his own sins, just like everyone else. Only the Son of God was perfect. This is about doing business, not condemning people. Dr. Ford is a man that loves his community.

Council Member Herron then reviewed the process for appointment, which includes a review by OIA. Dr. Ford was approved by them before the item was presented to the Council. She reminded everyone that United We Stand, Divided We Fall.

Council Member Newton called the question.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 21-21 APPOINTMENT OF RALPH R. FORD, JR. (D) TO THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR ((BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, VALLE, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

27-21 Proposed Settlement of Pending Litigation with William Gomez-Perez, et al Docket No. FBT-CV-19-6082893-S.

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED AGENDA ITEM 27-21 – PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH WILLIAM GOMEZ-PEREZ, ET AL DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-19-6082893-S.**

**** Council Member Herron seconded.**

Council Member Pereira said she was not in favor of this because she had a fiduciary responsibility and will be voting against the item.

*** THE MOTION TO APPROVE AGENDA ITEM 27-21 PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION WITH WILLIAM GOMEZ-PEREZ, ET AL DOCKET NO. FBT-CV-19-6082893-S PASSED WITH SEVENTEEN (17) IN FAVOR ((BURNS, MCCARTHY, CRUZ, MACK, BROWN, SMITH, BOYD, HERRON, LYONS, VIZZO-PANICCIA, MCBRIDE-LEE, ROMAN-CHRISTY, CASTILLO, SILVA, NIEVES, VALLE, AND NEWTON) AND TWO (2) OPPOSED (PEREIRA AND SMALL).**

ADJOURNMENT

**** COUNCIL MEMBER NEWTON MOVED TO ADJOURN
** COUNCIL MEMBER MCBRIDE-LEE SECONDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Telesco Secretarial Services